Claims

1. A method for calibrating at least one adjustable drive of a cutter associated with an image printer comprising:

a) setting the adjustable drive of the cutter to a first setting;

b) printing a calibration print with the image printer;

c) moving the calibration print with the adjustable drive of the cutter;

d) comparing a chosen feature of the calibration print to the distance that the print is moved by the adjustable drive;

e) deriving an input signal representative of the difference between the chosen feature and the distance that the calibration print is moved by the adjustable drive; and

f) correcting the adjustable drive responsive to the input signal.

2. A method as in Claim 1 including cutting the calibration print and the chosen feature is the cut length.

3. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the adjustable drive is a stepper motor.

4. A method as in Claim 3 wherein setting the adjustable drive is a stepper motor and setting the adjustable drive comprises setting the linear distance that the stepper motor moves the calibration print with each step.

5. A method as in Claim 2 wherein correcting the adjustable drive comprises changing the distance a stepper motor advances the calibration print for cutting the calibration print.

6. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the calibration print includes a pair of spaced fiducial marks and the chosen feature is the distance between the fiducial marks.

7. A method as in Claim 1 wherein the calibration print includes a plurality of staggered fiducial marks; cutting the calibration print to provide a cut edge adjacent one of the fiducial marks and the chosen feature being the fiducial mark closest to the cut edge.

8. A method for calibrating at least one component of a cutter associated with an image printer comprising:

a) setting the adjustable component of the cutter to a first setting;

b) printing a calibration print with the image printer;

c) scanning the calibration print and measuring a feature of the calibration print that is affected by the setting of the adjustable component; and

d) adjusting the component in response to the measurement.

9. A method as in Claim 8 wherein adjusting the component comprises setting a stored value in a controller operating the cutter.

10. A method as in Claim 9 wherein the adjustable component comprises is the linear distance the calibration print is moved with each step of a stepper motor.

11. A method as in Claim 8 including cutting the calibration print and scanning the print involves measuring the cut length of the calibration print and adjusting the component in response to the measured cut length.

12. A method as in Claim 8 wherein the calibration print has at least one fiducial mark and said scanning measures the intensity of the fiducial mark and adjusting the component comprises setting a fiducial sensor to produce a predetermined output.

13. A method as in Claim 8 wherein the adjustable component comprises an adjustable drive for moving the calibration print, the calibration print comprises first and second fiducial marks and said adjusting comprises adjusting the drive so the linear distance the drive moves the print corresponds to the distance between the fiducial marks.

14. A method as in Claim 8 wherein the adjustable component comprises an adjustable drive for advancing the calibration print a preselected distance with respect to a cutter, the calibration print comprises a plurality of fiducial marks spaced a predetermined distances from a edge of the calibration print, and said adjusting comprises adjusting the adjustable drive to cause the cutter to cut the print at a predetermined one of the fiducial marks.